



King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter — June 2007

Congratulations 2007 Earth Heroes at School!



Teal Stannard, Philip Park, and Clara Manahan from West Woodland Elementary in Seattle accept their awards as 2007 Earth Heroes at School.

King County Executive Ron Sims recognized ten teachers, eight student leaders, and eight school programs as 2007 Earth Heroes at School at a reception in Renton on April 19. Whether incorporating sustainability and environmental stewardship into the curriculum, planting a garden, or establishing a successful recycling program, all demonstrated a serious commitment to improving and protecting our local environment. See a complete [list and photos](#) of the 2007 award-winners.

Green Team Projects

Over 80 Green Teams throughout King County have been reducing waste, helping habitat, and making earth-smart choices. Many have been recognized by the King County Solid Waste Division with certificates and reusable water bottles. Some have been named Earth Heroes at School.

Thoreau Elementary, Kirkland

The school-wide Green Team, with direction from teacher Marie Hartford and support from a Green



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Hazards on the Homefront Student Projects

After attending the *Hazards on the Homefront* teacher workshop this year, teachers have incorporated household hazardous waste topics into their curriculum to encourage students and their families to protect their personal health and safety.

Eckstein Middle School, Seattle

Sixth grade science teacher Jessica Levine used a *Hazards on the Homefront* mini-grant to connect the study of acids and bases to sustainability and to understand the hazards of certain everyday chemicals. Some students created posters in their native languages about hazardous products and others wrote persuasive essays in their English class. One parent commented that she was thrilled her daughter was learning to make her own well-informed decisions about safer alternatives to hazardous products.



The Thoreau Elementary Green Team plants lettuce using compost from their worm bin.

Team mini-grant, put together a worm bin composting system. Fifth and sixth graders gathered food waste from the lunchroom at a rate of five pounds a day, five days a week. In the spring, the students built a raised bed, prepared the soil using the worm bin castings, and planted lettuce to serve in the lunchroom in June.

Mirror Lake Elementary, Federal Way

Chris Andrews's third through fifth grade students began a "Recyclers R Us" Green Team to recycle aluminum cans and printer cartridges. The aluminum can money was donated to the school's "Pennies for

PTA" project, and the cartridges were exchanged for reams of recycled paper at Office Max. The project generated school-wide interest and now other classes have started recycling other items such as eyeglasses and cell phones.

Endeavor Elementary, Issaquah

Kimberly Ralph's fifth grade students established a Waste-Free Snack Day for their classroom. Students are now more aware of the waste created by a variety of snacks, and they continue to practice waste reduction on a regular basis. They plan to promote waste-free snacks to the entire school.

Clark Elementary, Issaquah

Liza Rickey's fourth/fifth grade class researched and designed a native plant garden that will provide a location for the release of butterflies and teach the school about the importance of native plants and natural yard care.

Evergreen Academy, Bothell

Stephanie McNamar and Emily Fife's third grade Green Team has begun collecting recyclables school-wide. As a result, garbage cans are less full and the students are proud to be role models of environmental stewardship.

Rose Hill Elementary, Redmond

Judy Voss's third grade Green Team created a worm bin to reduce their food waste and learn about composting. Students are more aware of the important role that worms play in food composting and they eagerly await their turn to add food scraps to the bin.

Carnation Elementary, Carnation

Elizabeth Wing's second/third grade class planted a native garden and started a worm bin to create less waste. Students now feel more ownership of their school and have increased appreciation for service learning projects.

Secondary Green Team Projects

SeaTac OSC Students Make Recycled Fashion Statement

After learning about the everyday affects our trash has on the environment,



Eckstein Middle School students learn about reading labels on hazardous products.

Eton School, Bellevue

Hazards on the Homefront mini-grant recipient Gayle Holeyton and her students are designing and creating a butterfly garden at their school. Students researched different types of pesticides and fertilizer and will provide recommendations on safer alternatives to the school's landscaping company and to the community at large.

Kent Meridian High School, Kent

Jodie Mathwig's and Adam Skagen's 35 biology and chemistry students at Kent Meridian High School designed experiments to test household hazardous products. For example, one project focused on the use of vinegar as a household cleaning product in place of bleach. Students created [slide-show reports](#) (external) describing their experiments and results.

King County Hazards on the Homefront FREE workshop for 6th-12th Grade Teachers

With Optional Day Two on Personal Care Products Safety and Labeling

Hazards on the Homefront

Wednesday August 15, 2007, 8:00am-4:00 pm

Kohlwes Education Center, Renton WA

Fulfill Science, Health and Fitness GLEs. **Teach** your students how to make real-life decisions.

Leave with everything you need to start teaching.

Earn clock hours or college credit.

Great workshop! The materials in the binder are wonderful and make it easy to

Fashion Design and Marketing students at the SeaTac Occupational Skills Center created fashions from discarded materials. Teacher Jill Price-Crawley received a King County Green Team grant, as well as funding from ReUse Resources, to hire Robin Worley, a trash fashion specialist from Haute Trash. Ms. Worley assisted the students in transforming waste into wearable art and presenting their designs in a fashion show for the over 3,800 students from across the state who attended the 2007 WA State DECA Career Development Conference. View a Flash-based [slideshow](#) of the imaginative designs of these resourceful young women, or download the [PDF version](#) ([PDF](#), 1 MB). Photos courtesy of Amber Trillo and the West Seattle Herald.

Beaver Lake Middle School, Issaquah

The environmental club, BLEEPO, kicked off a school-wide recycling program at the school. The students presented recycling information in classrooms and at a staff meeting. They have also participated in school litter clean-ups, tree planting, [Cartridges for Kids](#) (external), and various projects with the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Environment and Adventure School, Kirkland

Teachers John Hamilton, Brian Healy, and Eileen McMackin have involved their students in numerous projects that benefit the environment. John Hamilton’s students created a herbarium of native and non-native plants that is being used throughout the school to help students learn about the school yard ecosystem. Brian Healy’s students have been working with Classic Nursery in Redmond to teach others about local salmon runs. They have worked on interpretive signs, trail building and maintenance, and they have helped to build the new interpretive center. Eileen McMackin’s students have created 20 new ecology games that teach younger students about Pacific Northwest ecosystems.

Evergreen High School, Seattle

Sara Esrick and Gretchen Fischer’s ninth grade students have continued to collect recyclables in the school’s recycling program. As a result of the program, students are beginning to make recycling a habit and there are fewer recyclables in the garbage.

Evergreen Junior High, Redmond

The Multi-Cultural Club has taken on promotion of the new recycling system set up with help from the King County Green Schools Program. They are making posters, doing morning announcements, distributing containers, and exploring other ways to help make recycling a success at the school.

Kentlake High School, Kent

Barbara Bell’s students promoted classroom recycling in the fall and have collected the recyclables throughout the school year. As a result, recycling is becoming part of the school culture.

Pine Lake Middle School, Sammamish

The Spirit Students have been busy improving classroom recycling and promoting a new lunchroom recycling program. Students trained homeroom captains on the ins and outs of the new recycling program, and captains then

apply. Workshop included practice of activities so prep time for classroom was significantly reduced. – 10th/11th grade teacher

Teach your students to

- recognize hazardous household products and safer alternatives.
- conduct fun, hands-on experiments.
- dispose of products safely.

This [free workshop](#) includes

- Hazards on the Homefront Teacher’s Guide.
- Green Cleaning Kit filled with safer products.
- stipend for certified King County teachers upon completion of workshop objectives.
- lesson and unit plans developed by past workshop participants.
- information about free follow-up classroom presentations and mini-grants.
- lunch.

I felt very comfortable teaching these lessons. I highly recommend that at least one science teacher from each school attend the workshop. – 9th grade physical science teacher

Optional Day Two Workshop

Consumer Awareness: Personal Care Products Safety and Labeling
Presented by [Northwest Association for Biomedical Research](#) (external) (NWABR)
Thursday August 16, 2007 8:00am-4:00 pm

This workshop is made possible through funding from the Chiron Foundation.

How can you tell if a shampoo or lotion really does what it says it does? What does “Not Tested on Animals” really mean? Evaluating cosmetic claims requires an understanding of the science behind the ingredients and the regulations behind the labels and safety testing. This curriculum incorporates multiple aspects of science, research, and ethics.

trained their homeroom students. Earth Corps students created and displayed posters on how to recycle.

Secondary Academy for Success in King County, Bothell

Barbara Wilson’s mixed-grade Green Team organized work parties at 21 Acres that involved sustainable farming, building fences, spreading wood chips, and moving fences. Following a visit to Cascade Recycling Center, they put on a skit to remind the school body about proper recycling. Due to the effectiveness of the Green Team’s efforts, the school has increased its recycling pickup from once a week to three times per week.

Thomas Jefferson High School, Auburn

Connie Davolt’s marketing class continues to explore new ways to create a school recycling culture. They held a contest in which they gave out sodas in exchange for students properly recycling lunchtime materials. They are creating posters and PSAs to remind students of what can and cannot be recycled. Stephanie Kurrus’s students continue to collect recyclables for the school-wide program.

New EcoConsumer Blog

Tom Watson, King County’s EcoConsumer now has a [blog](#) with easy tips for making conscientious eco-friendly choices. Post your own comments to this blog or ask a question of the EcoConsumer.

Is Your School "Green"?

Join 172 other King County schools and become a Green School. King County’s [Green Schools Program](#) is now accepting applications for fall 2007. Send email to [Dale Alekel](#) or call 206-296-8457.

King County Green Schools Program members receive *Earth Hero at Schools Award*

Five schools and four individuals receiving [Earth Hero at Schools](#) awards are also associated with the King County [Green Schools Program](#). These are Apollo Elementary, Juanita Elementary, Sunny Hills Elementary, and Rose Hill Junior High, which were honored for their successful recycling programs; Explorer West Middle School which was honored for its Sustainability Initiative; and Meggan Atkins of Maywood Middle School and Kirsten Miner, Tayrn Grant and Pauline Lao of Lake Washington High School who were honored for their role in initiating recycling and ensuring participation.

You will receive

- lesson materials
- access to a loaner kit with materials for making hand lotions in class
- lunch

We expanded the consumer choice and used the personal care products taught by NWABR and incorporated that into covalent bonding. – 11th/12th grade chemistry teacher

TO REGISTER for one or both workshop days, please call Erin McGourty at 206-583-0655 or email [workshops](#). Space is limited to 25 teachers.



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